

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

IN RE:

THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND  
OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,  
*et als.*

Debtor

IN RE:

THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND  
OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF PUERTO RICO

Debtor

IN RE:

THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND  
OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

THE PUERTO RICO HIGHWAYS AND  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Debtor

PROMESA  
TITLE III

CASE NO. 17 BK 3283-LTS

(Jointly Administered)

PROMESA  
TITLE III

CASE NO. 17 BK 3566-LTS

(Joint Administration Requested)

PROMESA  
TITLE III

CASE NO. 17 BK 3567 - LTS

(Joint Administration Requested)

**MOTION TO COMPEL THE PUERTO RICO HIGHWAYS AND  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TO ASSUME OR REJECT  
EXECUTORY CONTRACTS**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN:

NOW COMES creditor TAMRIO, INC. ("TAMRIO"), party in interest in the PROMESA TITLE III Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS represented by the undersigned law office and respectfully sets forth and prays:

### **Jurisdiction**

This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter pursuant to the provisions of 28 USC Section 1334 and Section 1 *et seq.* of PROMESA, 48 USC §§ 2101 *et seq.*

### **Nature of the Action**

This is a contested matter to compel HTA to assume or reject executory contracts filed pursuant to 48 USC § 2161 and 11 USC § 365 (d)(2).

### ***The Facts***

1. That TAMRIO is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, with principal place of business in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.
2. That TAMRIO is engaged in the development and construction of infrastructure projects throughout the Island of Puerto Rico.
3. That TAMRIO as a general contractor is a party to the construction contracts (the "Executory Contracts") executed with the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") described in *Exhibit A*.
4. That all the Executory Contracts described in *Exhibit A* are federally funded infrastructure projects much needed in our dire economy for the safety and transportation of residents, tourist and visitors and for the safety and transportation of goods and services in our local economy.
5. That on May 21, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico filed a petition for relief on behalf of HTA pursuant to Title III of PROMESA, 48 USC §§ 2161 *et seq* (the "Petition"). The Petition was filed with the intention to reorganize and adjust the debts of HTA.
6. That Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico has not filed a plan of reorganization on behalf of HTA and from a cursory review of the docket TAMRIO can make a reasonable inference that none will be filed in the coming months.

7. That at the time of the Petition, all Executory Contracts listed in *Exhibit A* were and still are in full effect and force and the obligations of HTA and TAMRIO are so far unperformed that the failure of either to complete performance would constitute a material breach excusing the performance of the other.
8. That it is best to the interest of all concerned parties to know if HTA will assume or reject the Executory Contracts listed in *Exhibit A*.

*The Code, the Authorities and the Jurisprudence*

9. That Section 301 of PROMESA, 42 USC § 2161 adopts by reference and makes applicable to these proceedings certain dispositions of the Bankruptcy Code (the “Code”), 11 USC §§ 101 *et seq.* including but not limited to the dispositions of Section 365 (d)(2) of the Code.

Section 365(d)(2) of the Code provides as follows:

“(2) In a case under chapter 9, 11, 12, or 13 of this title, the trustee may assume or reject an executory contract or unexpired lease of residential real property or of personal property of the debtor at any time before the confirmation of a plan but the court, on the request of any party to such contract or lease, may order the trustee to determine within a specified period of time whether to assume or reject such contract or lease.” (Emphasis supplied).

10. The above captioned proceedings under PROMESA is as close that one can get to a hybrid combination of Chapter 9 and Chapter 11 reorganization proceedings that requires the filing of a plan of reorganization. See 11 USC § 941 and 11 USC § 1121.
11. An executory contract is considered a contract under which the obligation of both the bankrupt and the other party to the contract are so far unperformed that the failure of either to complete performance would constitute a material breach excusing the performance of the other. See Professor Vern Countryman, *Executory Contracts in Bankruptcy: Part I*, 57 Minn.L.Rev. 439, 460 (1973). See also Mason v. Official Comm. of Unsecured Creditors (In re FBI Distrib. Corp.), 330 F.3d (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2003).
12. The definition espoused by Professor Vern Countryman in his treatise on executory contracts has been accepted by the Supreme Court and the third circuit and other circuits as well. See N.L.R.B. v. Bildisco and Bildisco, 465 U.S. 513, 522-6, 104 S.Ct. 1188, 1194 n.6, 79 L. Ed. 2d 482 (1984) and Sharon Steel Corp. v. National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp., 872 F.2d 36, 39 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1989).

13. Construction agreements like the ones listed in *Exhibit A* are considered by their own nature as executory contracts. See In re Independent American Real Estate, Inc., 146 B.R. 546 (Bankr. N.D. Tx. 1992).
14. The Courts in the cases of In re Adelphia Communications Corp., 291 B.R. 283, 292 (Bankr. S.D. N.Y. 2003) and In re Teligent, Inc., 268 B.R. 723, 738 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2001) have articulated various tests or guidelines that should be taken into consideration when deciding under § 365(d)(2), *supra*, like in the case at bar, whether to enlarge or reduce a debtor's time to assume or reject an executory contract. In the In re Adelphia case, the court synthesized these decisions and developed a twelve factor test that included the following elements:

- “1. the nature of the interests at stake;
2. the balance of the hurt to the litigants;
3. the good to be achieved;
4. the safeguards afforded to the litigants;
5. whether the action to be taken is so in derogation of Congress' scheme that the court may be said to be arbitrary;
6. the debtor's failure or ability to satisfy post-petition obligations;
7. the damage that the non-debtor will suffer beyond the compensation available under the Bankruptcy Code;
8. the importance of the contract to the debtor's business and reorganization;
9. whether the debtor has sufficient time to appraise its financial situation and the potential value of its assets in formulating a plan of reorganization;
10. whether there is a need for judicial determination as to whether an executory contract exists;
11. whether exclusivity has been terminated; and
12. above all, the broad purpose of Chapter 11, which is to permit successful rehabilitation of debtors.”

15. If we take into consideration that there is no certainty nor a time fixed for the filing of a plan of reorganization and if we further take into consideration that due to the nature of the Executory Contracts and the high cost to perform that is incurred and assumed by TAMRIO on a day to day

basis, including labor and materials it behooves the best interest of the contracting parties to know early at this stage of the proceedings if HTA is going to assume or reject the Executory Contracts. Both § 365(d)(2) and Rule 9006 (c)(1) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure grant the discretion to the Court to reduce for cause the term granted to HTA to assume or reject the Executory Contracts.

16. There is sufficient cause for the remedy requested if the Court takes into consideration that while the Executory Contracts are in full force and effect and HTA is taking its time to elect whether it will assume or reject the Executory Contracts, TAMRIO is bound to honor them and to continue incurring in expenses to pay the labor and materials needed to perform under each Executory Contract. *See Bordewieck, The Postpetition, Pre-Rejection, Pre-Assumption Status of an Executory Contract*, 59 Am. Bankr. L.J. 197, 200, 2011-13 (1985). Just to illustrate the Court, TAMRIO currently employs 86 of constructions workers in the projects listed in *Exhibit A*, with a weekly payroll of \$33,988.00; in addition to that, TAMRIO makes substantial weekly disbursements for the purchase of materials and for the rental and or upkeep of construction machinery and equipment.
17. HTA is liable for the payment of the retainage in the Executory Contracts in the aggregate amount of \$551,181.13.
18. HTA is also liable for the compensation of damages and or claims arising out of the Executory Contracts in the aggregate amount of \$2,312,554.53.
19. That there is no certainty that HTA will be able to pay the amounts retained nor the damages and or claims arising out of the Executory Contracts listed in *Exhibit A*.
20. In view of the aforementioned facts, TAMRIO respectfully request that HTA be granted a term of 21 days to elect whether it will assume or reject the Executory Contracts listed in *Exhibit A*.

#### NOTICE OF RESPONSE TIME

**Pursuant to the provisions of Local Bankruptcy Rule 9013-1(c)(1) within fourteen (14) days after service as evidenced by the certification, and an additional three (3) days pursuant to Fed. R. Bank. P. 9006(f) if you were served by mail, any party against whom this paper has been served, or any other party to the action who objects to the relief sought herein, shall serve and file an objection or other appropriate response to this paper with the Clerk's office of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico. If no objection or other response is filed within the time allowed herein,**

**the paper will be deemed unopposed and may be granted unless: (i) the requested relief is forbidden by law; (ii) the requested relief is against public policy; or (iii) in the opinion of the Court, the interest of justice requires otherwise.**

WHEREFORE appearing party prays for an Order granting the foregoing motion and in its consequence granting HTA 21 days to elect whether to assume or reject the Executory Contracts.

### **CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING AND SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on even date, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following: to all attorneys that have filed their respective notice of appearance and to the Standard Parties as such term is defined in the Court's Order Establishing Case Management Procedures, supra:

- (i) Chambers of the Honorable Laura Taylor Swain (two copies shall be delivered to each chambers listed below):

United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico  
150 Carlos Chardón Street,  
Federal Building, Office 150,  
San Juan, P.R. 00918-1767

-and-

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl St., Suite No. 3212  
New York, New York 10007-1312

- (ii) Office of the United States Trustee for Region 21  
Edificio Ochoa, 500 Tanca Street, Suite 301  
San Juan, PR 00901-1922

- (iii) Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority (AAFAF):

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And I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the document to the following non CM/ECF participants: to the members of the Creditors' Committee at their postal address of record.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

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